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Buter named to DE's Deputy Director post

by Eva D. Hendren, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — Lt. Col. Thomas A. Buter, who has been selected for promotion to colonel, officially replaced Col. Mark D. Stephen as Deputy Director of Directed Energy July 1.

Buter's previous assignment was Deputy Commander of the 46th Test Group at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. Prior to that, he was employed as the Air Force representative to the Missile Defense Agency's Joint Center for Technology Integration and to the NASA's \$5.7 billion Space Launch Initiative Program.

Buter, a native of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering at North Carolina State University on an Air Force ROTC scholarship. He received a master's degree in mechanical engineering at the NASA Langley Research Center on a NASA Fellowship. He completed a doctorate in aerospace engineering at Arizona State University in 1992.

Involved with an international team comprised of four members from Sweden, the Netherlands, the United States and Germany, Buter was the first Department of Defense recipient of the Von Karman Institute's Award for Outstanding International Research. The team received the award in 1987 for work accomplished in the years 1984-1986.

Buter has published more than 30 technical papers. He is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Atmospheric Flight Mechanics Technical Committee, the Society of Flight Test Engineers, the Air Force Association, and the Soaring Society of America.

He has performed flight test and test support in a variety of military aircraft, including the T-38A/B, F-15B/D/E, and F-16A/B/D. He is also a commercial flight instructor.

Stephen's last day was June 30. He has departed for the Pentagon. He was the acting director for the directorate following Dr. Earl Good's retirement from that position April 4, 2003. @



***Lt. Col. Thomas A
Buter***